English Language Arts 20 - Independent Novel Study

This assignment is intended to display your understanding of the novel that you have chosen. Written work should be typed (12pt font) and double-spaced. You will have some class time to work on this assignment, but it is sometimes difficult to book computer time that will accommodate our schedule. Please plan ahead.

You may choose a book from any of the **senior ELA sections**, but I would prefer if you tried to find a novel in the ELA 20 section before looking elsewhere.

# Part A – 20 marks

Based on your chosen novel, prepare a four to six minute talk, impersonating the writer of the novel you are presenting.

Without notes of any kind, you will do the following (your imagination will come into play a bit in order to supply information that is not stated directly):

* Tell a little about yourself – where you were born, how old you are, what your interests are, where you went to school, etc.
* Explain what motivated you to write the book: where you got the idea, what message you wanted to leave with your readers, etc.
* Tell a bit about some of the problems you encountered and solved while writing the book
* Tell what you are most proud of about the book
* Introduce a passage that you will read dramatically to your audience (a page or two – about two minutes worth)that reveals an exciting event or that reveals a bit about a character or that contains good description – or perhaps all three. Remember that the audience knows nothing about the book, and so you must set the stage clearly and fully so that the passage you read makes sense. You might have to say things like: “Part way through you are going to meet Simon, the twin brother of Charles, who has gone off to America leaving the family’s estate in England to work with a crackpot preacher who has brainwashed him.”
* Finally, read aloud an appropriate passage that you think will be of interest to your audience. This assignment is fulfilling a “dramatic reading” outcome in your curriculum, so rehearse it very well so that you can read it effectively with expression and without hesitations, mispronunciations and stumbling over words and phrases. Build pauses into your reading.
* Altogether, your presentation must not exceed six minutes, nor be less than four minutes. **Be well prepared.**
* After you finish, your teacher or classmates may want to as you questions, so be prepared for that.

I will require the written “speech” (in full) handed in to me before you begin.

You will have class time to work on this assignment, and this will also be what you work on if you are finished with your work during class time but I am working with the other group of students. Remember this and use your class time effectively.

## Part B – 40 marks

# Assignment: You must write a minimum 500-word essay (word count will be required) on the novel of your choice, arguing a point or persuading your audience of something. The general topic of your paper is yours to choose, as long as there is the element of argument and/or persuasion. Here are some suggestions:

* Analyze and explain the relationships between generations
* Discuss the use of comedy
* Discuss the contribution of a minor character in the novel
* Compare and contrast the novel with another piece you have read
* Discuss the author’s treatment of gender
* Discuss the author’s treatment of class relations
* How does the setting in your novel contribute to the theme or tone?
* How was this novel shaped by the time period in which it was written?
* Find a quote and discuss how the novel compliments the quote
* Discuss the evident themes in your novel

*Of course, these are just suggestions and, having done this type of essay before, you know that you may choose something else. The twist here that differs from years past is that you have to* ***argue or persuade****. I will teach a lesson on the specifics of this before it is time to begin. Give yourself some time to read your novel and jot down some of your ideas as you read. We can work together to pick a topic that works for you.*

Be confident in your abilities to showcase your knowledge of your novel! The most important thing in this assignment is to use your time wisely—this will be overwhelming if you leave it until the last minute! Be smart, plan ahead, and give yourself time to do a good job on this assignment! By this grade level, you should be able to discipline yourself to complete major projects without much encouragement or nagging!

**You must follow writing guidelines that you have been taught and ensure that your paper is double-spaced. Further, you must include evidence of each stage of the writing process (pre-writing, drafting, editing, final copy, etc.).**

**Due Dates:**

\*\* Everyone must have their novel read and be working on their speaking presentation by **Friday, November 4, 2011.**  Everyone must see me about the topic they have chosen to write on (or to get assistance in choosing a topic) before beginning their essays. Everyone must have an essay topic chosen by **Monday, November 21, 2011.**

Due Date for the speaking portion (Part A) is **Friday, November 18, 2011**

Due Date for the essay portion (Part B) is **Wednesday, December 21, 2011.**